BRET HARTE'S NEW ROMANCE

SNOWBOUND AT EAGLE'S.

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CHAPTER V. The speed and fury with which Clinch's envalcade swept on in the direction of the mysterious shot left Hale no chance for reflection. He was conscious of shouting incoherently with the others, of urging his horse irresistibly forward, of momentarily expecting to meet or overtake something, but without any further thought. The figures of Clinch and Rawlins immediately before him shut out the prospect of the narrowing trail. Once only, taking advantage of a sudden halt that threw them cou-

fusedly together, he managed to ask a question. Lost their track-found it again," shouted the hostler, as Clinch, with a cry like the baying of a hound, again darted forward. Their horses were panting and trembling under them, the



THEIR HORSES WERE PANTING AND TREMBLING UNDER THEM.

ascent seemed to be growing steeper, a singu lar darkness, which even the density of the did not sufficiently account for, surrounded them, but still their leader madly urged them on. To Hale's returning senses they did not seem in a condition to engage t single resolute man, who might have ambushed in the woods or beaten them in detail in the narrow gorge, but in another instant the reason of their furious haste was manifest. Spurring his horse ahead, Clinch dashed out into the open with a cheering shout—a shout that as quickly changed to a yell of imprecation. They were on the ridge in a blinding snow storm The road had already vanished under their feet, and with it the fresh trail they had so closely foll wed! They stood helplessly on the shore of a trackless white son, blank and spotless of any trace or sign of the fugitives.

Pears to me, boys," said the hostler, suddenly ranging before them, "ef you're not kalkilatin' on gittin' another party to dig ye out, ye'd better be huntin' fodder and cover instead of road agents. 'Skuse me, gentlemen, but I'm responsible for the hosses, and this ain't no time for circus ridin'. We're a matter o' six miles from the station in a bee line."

Back to the trail, then "said Clinch, wheeling his horse toward the road they had just

'Skuse me, kernel,' said the hostler, laying his hand on Clinch's rein, "but that way only brings us back the road we kem-the stage road-three miles further from home. That three miles is on the divide, and by the time we get there it will be snowed up worse nor this. The shortest cut is along the ridge. If we hump ourselves we ken cross the divide afore the road is blocked. And that, 'skuso me, gentlemen, is my road."

There was no time for discussion. The road was already palpably thickening under their feet. Hale's arm was stiffened to his side by wet, clinging snow wreath. The flyures of the others were almost obliterated and shapeless. It was not snowing-it was snowballing! The huge flakes, shaken like enormous feathers out of a vast blue-black cloud, commingled and fell in sprays and spatches. All idea of their former pursuit was forgotten; the billing rage and enthusiasm that had possessed them was gone. They dashed after their new leader with only an instinct for shelter and succor.

They had not ridden long when, fortunately, changed. The snow no longer fell in such large flakes, nor as heavily. A bitter wind succeeded the soft snow began to stiffen and crackle under the horses' hoofs, they were no longer weighted and encumbered by the drifts upon their bodies, the smaller flakes now rustled and rasped against them like sand or bounded from them like hall. They seemed to be moving more easily and rapidly, their spirits were rising with the stimulus of cold and motion when suddenly their leader halted.

"It's no use, boys. It can't be done! This is no blizzard-but a regular two days' snifter It's no longer meitin', but packin' and driftin' now. Even if we get over the divide, we're sure to be blocked up in the pass."

It was true! To their bitter disappointment, they could now see that the snow had not really diminished in quantity, but that the now finely powdered particles were rapidly filling all inequalities of the surface, packing closely against projections, and swirting in long furrows across the levels. They looked with anxiety at their self-constituted leader.

We must make a break to get down in the woods again before it's too late," he said,

But they had already drifted away from the fringe of larches and dwarf pines that marked the sides of the ridge and lower down merged into the dense forest that clothed the flank of the mountain they had lately el mbed, and it was with the greatest difficulty that they again reached it, on y to find that at that point it was too precipitous for the descent of their horses. Benumbed and speechless, they continued to toll on opposed to the full fury of the stinging snow, and at times obliged to turn their horses to the blast to keep from being blown over the ridge. At the end of half an hour the hostler dismounted, and, beckoning to the others, took his horse by the bridie and began the descent. When it came to Hale's turn to dismount be could not help at first recoiling from the prospect before him. The trail-if it could be so called-was merely the track or furrow of some fallen tree dragged, by accident or design. diagonally across the sides of the mountain At times it appeared scarcely a foot in width : at other times a mere crumbling guiley or a narrow shelf made by the projections of dead boughs and collected debris. It seemed perilous for a foot passenger; it appeared impossible for a horse. Nevertheless, he had taken a step forward when Clinch stopped him.
"You'll bring up the rear," he said not un-

kindly, "ez you're a stranger here. Wait until we sing out to you.

But if I prefer to take the same risks as you

all!" said Hale, stiffly.

'You kin." said Clinch, grimly. " But I reckoned, as you weren't familiar with this sort o' thing, you wouldn't keer, by any foolishness o yours, to stampede the rocks shead of us, and break down the trail, or send down an ava-

lanche on top of us. But jest er you like."
"I will wait, then," said Haie, hastily. The rebuke however, did him good service. It preoccupied his mind, so that it remained unaffected by the dizzy depths, and enabled him to abanden himself mechanically to the sagacity of his horse, who was contented to simply follow the hoof prints of the preceding nimal, and in a few moments they reached the broader trail below without a mishap, A dissussion regarding their future movements was already taking place. The impossibility of regaining the station at the summit was admitted; the way down the mountain to the next settlement was still left to them, or the adjacent woods if they wished for an encampment.

The hostier once more assumed authority. 'Skuse me, gentlemen, but them horses don't take no passers down the mountain tokalkliate to wait here till the up stage comes.

and I've done my dooty when I hand the horses over to the driver."

But if she hears of the block up yer, and waits at the lower station?" said Rawlins. Then I've done my dooty all the same. Skuse me, gentlemen, but them ez hez their

own horses kin do ex they like."

As this clearly pointed to Hale, he briefly assured his companions that he had no intention of deserting them. "If I cannot reach Eagle's Court, I shall at least keep as near it as possible. I suppose any messenger from my house to the summit will learn where I am and why I am delayed?"

"Messenger from your house," gasped Raw-ns, "Are you crazy, stranger? Only a bird would get outer Eagle's now; and it would hev to be an eagle at that! Between your house and the summit the snow must be ten feet by this time, to say nothing of the drift in

Hale felt it was the truth. At any other time he would have worried over this unexpected situation and utter violation of all his traditions. He was past that now, and even-feit a certain relief. He knew his family were safe; it was enough. That they were locked up securely, and incapable of interfering with him, seemed to enhance his new, half-conscious, enjoyment of an adventurous existence.

The hostler, who had been lost in contemplation of the steep trail he had just descended, suddenly clapped his hand to his leg with an ejaculation of gratified astonishment.

Waal, darn my skin of that ain't Hennicker's 'slide' all the time! I heard it was somewhat

Rawlins briefly explained to Hale that a slide was a rude incline for the transit of heavy goods that could not be carried down a trail. "And Hennicker's," continued the man,

'ain't more nor a mile away. Ye might try Hennicker's at a push, eh?"

By a common instinct the whole party looked dubiously at Hale, "Who's Hennicker?" he

feit compelled to ask.

The hostler hesitated, and glanced at the others to reply. "There are folks," he said much better nor the crowd we're hunting; but they don't say it to Hennicker. We needn't let

on what we're after." "I for one," said Hale stoutly, "decidedly object to any concealment of our purpose."

"It don't follow," said Rawlins, carelessly, that Hennicker even knows of this yer robbery. It's his gineral gait we refer to. Ef yer think it more polite and more sociable to discuss this matter afore him, I'm agreed."

"Hale means," said Clinch, "that it wouldn't be on the square to make use of any points we might pick up there agin the road agents." "Certainly," said Hale. It was not at all what he had meant, but he felt singularly relieved at the compromise.

"And ez I recken Hennicker nin't such a fool ez not to know who we are and what we're out for," continued Clinch, "I reckon there ain't any concealment."
"Then it's Hennicker's?" said the hostler.

with swift deduction.
"Hennicker it is! Lead on."

The hostler remounted his horse, and the others followed. The trail presently turned into a broader track, that bore some signs of approaching habitation, and at the end of five minutes they came upon a clearing. It was part of one of the fragmentary mountain terraces, and formed by itself a vast niche, or bracketed shelf, in the hollow flank of the mountain that, to Hale's first glance, bore a rude resemblance to Eugle's Court. But there was pelther meadow nor open field; the few acres of ground had been wrested from the forest by axe and fire, and unsightly stumps everywhere marked the rude and difficult attempts at cultivation. Two or three rough buildings of unplaned and unpainted boards. connected by rambling sheds, stood in the centre of the amphitheatre. Far from being protected by the encircling rampart, it seemed to be the selected arena for the combating eletinually filled this cave of Æolus with driving snow, which, however, melted as it fell, or was quickly whirled away again.



A TALL, LAZY LOOKING GIRL APPEARED.

A few dogs barked and ran out to meet the eavalende, but there was no other sign of any life disturbed or concerned at their approach. "I reck on Hennicker ain't home, or he'd hev been on the look out afore this," said the hostler,

dismounting and rapping at the door.

After a silence, a female voice, unintelligibly to the others, apparently had some colloquy with the hostler, who returned to the party. "Must go in through the kitchen-can't open

the door for the wind." Loaving their horses in the shed, they entered the kitchen, which communicated, and presently came upon a square room filled with smoke from a fire of green pine logs. The doors and windows were tightly fastened; the only air came in through the large-throated chimney in voluminous gusts which seemed to make the hollow shell of the apartment swel and expand to the point of bursting. Despite the stinging of the resinous smoke, the temperature was grateful to the benumbed travcliers. Several custifonless armchairs, such as were used in barrooms, two tables, a side-board, half bar and half cupboard, and a rocking chair, comprised the furni-ture, and a few bear and buffalo skins covered the floor. Hate sank into one of the armchairs, and, with a lazy satisfaction, partiborn of his fatigue, and partly from some newly discovered appreciative faculty, gazad around the room, and then at the mistress of the house, with whom the others were talking.

She was tall, gaunt, and withered; in spite of her evident years, her twisted hair was still dark and full, and her eyes bright and piercing; her complexion and teeth had long since succumbed to the vitiating effects of frontier cookery, and her lips were stained with the yellow juice of a brier-wood pipe she held in her mouth. The hostler had explained their intrusion, and veiled their character under the vague epithet of a "hunting party," and was now evidently describing them personally. In his new-found philosophy the fact that the interest of his hostess seemed to be excited only by the names of his companions, that he him solf was carelessly and even deprecatingly ailuded to as the " stranger from Eagle's" by the hostler, and completely overlooked by the old

woman, gave him no concern. You'll have to talk to Zenobia yourself. Dod rot of I'm gine to interfere. She knows Hen-nicker's ways, and if she chooses to take in

nicker's ways, and if she chooses to take in transients, it sin't no funeral o' mine. Zeenie! You Zeenie! Look yer!"

A tail, lazy-looking, handsome girl appeared on the threshold of the next room, and, with a hand of each door post slowly swung herself backward and forward, without entering. "Well, Maw?"

The old woman briefly and unailuringly picture; the condition of the travellers.

"Paw an't here." began the girl, doubtfully. "and—How dy. Dick! is that you?" The interruption was caused by her racognition of the host er, and she counged into the room. In spite of a skinip, slatternly gows, whose straight skirt clung to ther lower walls, there was a quaint, nymph-like contour to her fluther. Whether from languar, till health, or more probably from a morbid consciousness of her

own height, she moved with a slightly affected stoop that had become a habit. It did not seem ungraceful to Hale, air-ady attracted by her desicate profile, her large dark eyes, and a certain whird resemblance she had to some half-domesticated Dryad.

"That'il do, Mase," she said, dismissing her parent with a nod. "Pil taik to Dick."

As the door closed on the old woman Zenobia leaned her hands on the back of a chair, and contronted the admiring eyes of Dick with a gold-lesslike indifference.

"Now wol's the use of your playin' this yer game on me, Dick? Wot's the good of your laddin' out, that hog-wash about huntin'? Hardy we been huntin' George Les and his boys since an hour before san un. You've been followin' a blind frait up to the ridge, until the snow got up and hunted your rand here! You've been whospin' and yodin' and circus ridn' on the roads ake ext yer was Comanches, and frightening all the women fok within mass-chafts your huntin'! You've been climbin' down I aw's old saids at last, et a makin' trincks for here to save the skins of them condemned Government berses of the Kempany! And thei's your huntin!" You've been climbin, but this ridiculous summers of the Kempany! And thei's your huntin!"

To Haie's surprise, a burst of laughter from the party followed this sneech. He tried to poin in, but this ridiculous summers of the Kempany! And thei's your huntin!"

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To Haie's surprise, a burst of laughter from the party followed this sneech. He tried to poin me, but this ridiculous summers of the Kempany!

And thei's your been the less concerned as he found the girl's dark eyes had rested once or twice dopin him coriously.

Zenoba laughed too, and, lazily turning the chair around dropped into it. "And by this time George Lee's longer back in his chyar and smokin' his cityar semewhar in Sacramento," she added, stretching her feet out to the



and, going to see on the see of accept glasses. It obtaged each one to rise to accept the libation, and as Hate did so in his turn be met the dark eyes of the girl full on his own. There was a pleased currosity in her gane-that made this married man of thirty-flve color

as a twickwardly as a boy.

The tender of re-freshment being understood as a tacif recognition of their claims to a larger hospitality, all further restraint was removed. Zenobia resumed her seat, and, placing her elbow on the arm of her chair and her small round claim in her hand, poked thought fully in the fire. 'When I say beorge Loe's a white man, at an't because I know him. It's his general gait. Wot's ne ever done that's underhanded or man me's ever took a picayine from. When he's helped himself to a pitelt's been outer them banks or them express campanies, that think it's mighty line to bust up themselves and swindle the poor folgs o' their last cent, and nobely take o' huntin' them! And does he keep their money? Not be passes it round among the boys that help him, and they put it in circulation. He don't keep it for himself; he ain't got line houses in Frises; he don't keep fast horses for show. Like ez not the critist he did that job with—ef it was him—none of you boys would have rul! And he takes all the risks himself—you ken bet your life that every man with him was safe and away afore he turned his back on you uns."

"He certainly drops a little of his money at draw poker, Zeenie," said Clinch, lauching. "Well, I don't hear of the Sheriff huntin' him
"Well, I don't hear of the Sheriff huntin' him

last week."

"Weil, I don't hear of the Shariff huntin' him to give it back, nor do I reckon Kelly handed it over to the Express it was taken from. I heard you won suthin' from him a -p-ilago. I reckon you've been huntin' him to flad out whar you should return it." should return it."

The laugh was clearly against Clinch. He was about to make some ratiying regained when the young girl sudd may interrupted him. "Et you're wanton' to hunt somehedy — why don't you take higher game? Thar's that Jim Harkins—go for him, and I'il join you." "Harkins!" exclaimed Clinch and Hale simultaneously.

"Yes, Jim Harkins—do you know him?" she simultaneously.

"Yes Jim Harkins—do you know him?" she said glan-tong from the one to the other.

"One of my friends does," said Conen, laughing: "but don't let that stop you."

And you—over there," continued Zenobia' bending her head and eyes toward Haie.

"The fact is—I believe he was my banker," said Haie, with a smile. "I don't know him personally."

"Then you'd better hunt him before he does you," she said.

"What's he done, Zeenie?" asked Rawlins, keen yentoying the disconfiture of the others.

"What?" Sile stopped, threw her long b ack braids over her shoulder, clasped her know with her hands, and, rocking boekward and forward subtimely unconscious of the apparition of a silm ank a and half dropped off slipper from under her shoulder, dispended of slipper from under her shoulder, with the said slyly, nodding toward Hale.

"Pray don't mind me," said Hale, with unnecessary eagerness.

"Yen' "said Zenobia." I reckon you all know

rition of a s. in angle and nail dropped on supper from under her short-sined gown, continued,

"Pray don't min! me," said Hale, with unnecessary eagerness.

"Weil," said Zenobia, "I reckon you all know
Ned Fakuer and the Excelsior Datch."

"Yes, Fagner's the superintendent of it,"
said Rawins. "And a square man too. Thar
ain't anything mean about him."

"Shake," said Zenobia extending her hand,
Rawins shook the predered hand with eager
spontaneousness, and the girl reamed. "He's
about oz good ez they make 'em-you bet,
Weil, you know Ned has but all his money, and
as in setrength, and all his saids and—"

"His good looks," added Clinch, naively.

"Into that Datch," continued Zenobia, squoring the interruption. "It's his mother, it's his
sweetheart, it's his everything! When other
chaps of his age was exertin' round Frisco,
and havin' high jinks Ned was in his Ditch.
Wait till she begins to boom, and then you
just stand round." More'n that, he got all the
boys to put in their last cent—for they love
Ned like ez ef he wos a woman."

"That's so," said Cinch and Rawlins simultaneously, "and he's worth it."

"Weil," continued Zenobia, "the Ditch
didn't boom ex soon ex they kalkined. And
ther the boys kopt gettin' poorer and noorer; noorything but his hopefulness and poorer invoorything but his hopefulness for hext to
he looks around for more cantal. And a'sout
this time, that coyote Harker smed subhar
mos up there, and he gits Ned to give him control of trand he'! lead him his hame and lik
np a company. Soon ex he gets control the
first him him on sight, and say had be a built of the hope
involved him him him hame and him
at him on sight, for some of the boys and
to have and had he will h

ins. "I think," said hale more reflectively. "that in the absence of legal remedy a man of that kind should have been dorses under skying physical menace to give up his ill-gotten gan. The money was the primary object and if that

could be got without bloodshed—which seems to me a useless crime—it would be quite as effective. Of course, if there was resistance or retalisation, it might be necessary to kill him."

He had unconsciously fallen into his old directle and dogmattc habit of speech and perhaps, under the spur of Zenobia's eyes, he had given it some natural emphasis. A dead stience followed, in which the others regarded him with amused and gratified surprise, and it was broken only by Zenobia rising and holdout her hand. "Shake!"



Hale raised it gallantly, and pressed his lips on the one spotless linger.

That's gostel truth. And you ain't the first white man to say it."

"Indeed," laughed Hale. "Who was the other?"
George Lee!"

CHAPTER VI.

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The laughter that followed was interrupted by a sudden barking of the dors in the outer clearing. Zenobar rose lazily and strode to the window. It relieved Hase of certain embarrassing reflections suggested by her comment. "Ef it ain't that God-forsiken foot Dick bringing up passengers from the snow-bound up stage in the road. I reckon Pre got suffin't to say to that?" But the later appearance of the apologatic Dick, with the assurance that the party carried a permission from her father, granted at the lower station in view of such an emergency, checked her active onposition. "That's like Paw," she solitoquized aggrievedly; "shuttin' us up and settin' dogs on everybody for a week, and then estin' the whose stage service pass through one door and out at another. Well, it's his house and his whiskey—and they kin take it—but they don't get me to help 'em."

They certainly were not a propossessing or good-matured acquisition to the barty. Apart from the natural antigonism which, on such occasions, those in possession a ways feel toward the navormer, they were strongly inclined to resist the dissatisfied queru ousness and azgressive attitute of these freshapp ican's for hesp takity. The most offensive one was a person who appeared to excrese some authority over the others. He was loud, assuming, and dressed with valigar pretension. He quickly disposed himself in the chair vacated by Zenotia, and called for some liquor.

"Treckon you'll hev to help yourself," said Rawins, dryl, as there was no response. "There are only two women in the house, and I rockon their hands are tull niceasly."

"There are only two women in the house, and I rockon their hands are tull niceasly."

"There are only two women in the house, and I rockon their hands are full niceasly."

"There are only two women in the house, and hower than men that hav been picked up afore now."

"You oughter told him that, and mabbee he'd heve come over win yer," returned Rawins. "He's a mild, soif, saw-going man—is Hennicker! Anit he, Osl, Cinch?"

The dead, oppressive allence that followed his empty laughter made it seem a most artificial. Rawins held his breath and looked at Cinch, Hale, with the instincts of a refined, sensitive man turned hot with the embarra-sment Cinch should have shown. For that gentleman, without ditting his open from the fire, and with no amparent change in his demeanor, lazily asked: Ye didn't ketch the name of that passenger?"

"Naturally, no! For when Guthrie hears what was said agin him he wouldn't give his name until he heard from him."

name until he heard from him."
"And what was said agin him?" asked

Chiefs, missing the said agin a man that give up that sum of mency, tike a chaw of tobacce, for the asking? Why, there were but three mon, as far as we kin bear, that did the job. An itere were four place as messenger on the tox, Sx were robbed by three; they were a sweet-scented lot! Reckon they must hav felt mighty small, for I hear they got up and skededied from the station under the pretext of looking for the robbers. "Ite laughed nazin, and the laugh was noosily repeated by his five companions at the others, and of the robber of the room.

Hale, who had forgetten that the stranger with burning checks and angre indignation, when the lazily uplified eye of C inch caught his, and absolutely held him down with its paralyzing and deady significance. Murder itself seemed to look from those cruelly quiet and removed itself seemed to look from those cruelly quiet and removed itself and removed sex gray rupils. For a mement he folt a thrill of pity for the westen who had provided it. He remained motioness and fractuated in his chair as the lazy lids closed like a sheath over Cinnel's eyes gain. Rawins wearing, remained equality still.

"They haven't heard the bird of it yet, you bet," continued the infainated stranger. "Ive got a little statement here for the newscaper." he added, drawing some papers from his pocket; suitin 1 just run off in the coach as I came along. I rockon it'll show things up in a new light. It's time there should be some change. All the cussin: that's been usually done ney been by the passengers agin the Express and Stage Companies. I promose that the common whom here for the newscaper." he added, drawing some papers from his pocket. "On the paper of the passenger agin to Express and Stage Companies, I promose that the common whom here is not the minimar poses of authorship, and his five friends, to whom the commonstion was evidently not unlaminar, assumed anti-roatory smiles.

"I can't Prize Prays you don't mind my pradicity of the manner of the presence of a subnormal and the conce, and tha

Colonel dryly. He turned, and still without lifting his eyes, walked toward the door of the room which Zenobia had entered. The key was on the inside, but Clinch gently opened the door, removed the key, and, closing the door again, locked it from his side. Haie and Rawlins felt their hearts beat quickly; the others followed Clinch's slow movements and downcast mien with amused curiosity. After locking the other outlet from the room, and pulting the keys in his pocket, Clinch returned to the fire. For the first time he litted his eyes; the man nearest him shrank back in terror.

"I am the man," he said slowly, taking deliberate breath between his sentences, who gave up those greenlacks to the robiers. I am one of the three passengers you have he pooned in that paper, and these gentlemen beside me are the other two." He stopped and looked around him. "You don't believe that three men can back down six! Well, I'll show you how it can be done. More than that, I'll show you how here you sit! I'll sive you until I count ten-tione of you moves, he and you are dead men—but you first!"

Before he had finished speaking Hale and Rawlins had both risen, as if in concert, with their westons drawn. Hale could not tell how or why he had done so, but he was equally conscious, without knowing why, of faving his eye on one of the other party, and that he should, in the event of an affray, try to kill him, hie did not attempt to reason; he only knew that he should do his best to kill that man and perhaps others.

"One," said Clinch lifting his derringer,

hap-others. Clinch lifting his derringer, "One," said Clinch lifting his derringer,

haps others.
"One," said Clinch lifting his derringer,
"two-three—"
"Look here, Colone!—I swear I didn't know
it was you. Come-d— it! I say-see here."
stammered Stamer, with white cheeks, not
daring to glance for aid to his stupefled party.
"Four-flow-six—"
"Wait! Here!" he produced the paper and
threw it on the floor.
"Pick it up and hand it to me, Seven—
eight—"
Stanner scrambled to his feet, picked up the

Stanner scrambled to his feet, picked up the Stanner scrambled to his feet, nicked up the paper, and handed it to the Coionei. "I was only joking, Coionei," he said with a forced laugh.

'I'm gual to hear it. But as this pike is in black and white, you wouldn't mind saying so in the same fashion. Take that pen and ink and write as I detate. 'I certify that I am satisfied that the above statement is a base caimmny against the characters of Ringwood Clinch, Robert Rawlins, and John Hale, passengers, and that I do hereby apologize to the same. Samit, That'll do. Now lot the rest of your party sign as witnesses."

They compiled without hesitation; some, seizing the opportunity of treating the affair as a joke, suggested a drink.



"I'LL EILL YOU WHERE YOU SIT."

"Excuse me," said Clinch, quietly, "but ez

"Excuse me," said Clinch, quietly, "but ex this nonse ain" big enough for me and that man, and ex I've got business at Wiid Cat Station with this paner. I think I'll go without drukin." He took the keys from his pocket, unlocked the doers, and, taking up his overcoat and rife, turned as if togo.

Rawlins reacts follow him: Hate alone hast-tated. The ranid occurrences of the last half hour gave him no time for reflection. But he was by no means satisfied tof the legality of the last act he hat aided and abetted, actnough he admitted its rude justice and felt he would have done so again. A fear of this, and an instinct that he might be led into further committentions if he continued to identify himself with Clinch and Rawlins; the fact that they had professedly abundoned their quees, and that it was really supplanted by the presence of an authorized party whom they had already come in conflict with—ail this urged him to remain behind. On the other hand, the apparent desertion of his comrades at the last moment was opposed both to his sense of honor and the liking he had attain to them. But he reflected that he had a ready shown his active partisanship, that he could be of little service to them at Wild Cat Station, and would be only increasing the distance from his home; and above all an impatient longing for independent action, finally decided him. "I think I will stay here," he said to Clinch, "unless you want me."

Clinch cast a swift and meaning glance at the enemy, but looked approval. "Keep your eyes skinned, and you're good for a loz n of 'en," he said, so to roce, and then turned to Stanner.

Tim going to take this paper to Wild Cat. I' you want to communicate with me hereafter you know where I am to be found, unless "e he smied grimly—" you'l like to see me outside for a few minutes before I go?"

It is a matter that concerns the Stage Company, not me," said Stanner, with an attempt to appear at his ease.

Hale accompanied Clinch and Rawlins through the kitchen to the stables, The hostier, I like, it and

Dick, had already returned to the rescue of the snowbound coach.

"I shouldn't like to leave many men alone with that crowd," said Canch, pressing Haie's hand: "and I wouldn't have allowed your staying behind of I didn't know I could bet my pile on you. Your offerin' to stay just puts a clean finish on it. Look yer, Haie, I didn't cotton much to you at first; hut of you ever want a friend—call on Ringwood Clinch."

"The same tore, od man," said Rawlins, extending his hand as he appeared from a hurried conference with the old woman at the woodshed, "and trust to Zechie to give you a hint of there's anythin' underhanded goin' on. So long."

hint of there's anythin' underhanded goin' on, so long."

Haif inclined to resent this implied suggestion of protection, yet half pleased at the idea of a c nildence with the hand-some gir, he had seen, Hale returned to the room. A whispered discussion among the party ceased on his entering and an awkward slience followed, which Hale did not attempt to break as he quietly took his seat again by the fire. He was presently confronted by Stanner, who with an affectation of easy familiarity crossed over to the hearth.

The old kernel's d—d perpery and high toned when he's got a nittle more than his reg'ar three fingers of corn pulse, elt?"

I must beg you to understand distinctly, Mr. Stanner, "and Hale, with a return of his habituar precision of statement," that I regard any sighting addition to the gentleman who

Mr. Stanner," and Hale with a return of his habitual precision of statement, "that I regard any sighting allusion to the gentleman who has just left not only as in exceedingly bad taste coming from you, but yery edensive to myself. I you mean to imply that he was under the influence of inport it is my duty to undecive you; he was so perfectly in possession of his faculties as to express not only his own, but my opinion of your conduct. You must also admit that he was discriminating enough to show his objection to your company by leaving it. I regret that circumstances do not make it convenient for mo to exercise that privilege; but if I am obliged to put up with your crossence in this room I strongly insist that it is not made unendurable with the addition of your conversation."

convenient for mo to exercise that privilege; but if I am obliged to put up with your crossence in this room I strongly insist that it is not made unemburable with the addition of your conversation."

The effect of this deliberate and passionless declaration was more discomposing to the party than Clinch's forty. Utterly unaccustomed to the ideas and language suddenly confronting them, they were unable to determine whether it was the real expression of the speaker, or whether it was a varies buddinge or affectation to which any reply would involve them in rideals. In a country terrorized by practical joking they did not doub but that this was a new form of hoaxing calculated to provoke some response that would constitute them as victims. The immediate effect upon them was that complete silence in regard to himself that this desired. They draw together again and conversed in winspers, while Hale, with the syes fixed on the fire, gave himself up to somewhat internal users in regard to himself that this desired. They draw together again and conversed in the fire, gave himself up to somewhat internal users in regard to his most cherished opinions, but he had acted to accordance to that comage in a way that made it seem almost unpossible for him ever incent. In the interests of hiw and crief the had engaged in an uniawful and discretely pairs of criminals, and had actually come in coulded, not with the exist of a contain an integral agit for its abstract history or assisted to might have for himself institute. More than that he was sinding himself committed to a certain sympathy with those criminals. Twenty-hour hours ago if any one had to have for himself institled. That he knew he would not new feel it as an instit remerally indeed, he was separated from his lamby and as it were from all his past life and traditions by a chance accident all not disturbing the committent his calculation of the probable criticism on his inconsistency, and was by no means in a hurry to suice himself out.

Lifting his eyes, he was sud

from a beam he saw that, though poorly fur-nished, it bore some evidence of feminine taste and habitation. Motioning to the only chair, she seated herself on the edge of the bed, with her bands clasping her knees in her familiar



tion, and her eyes were shining with tears. By

the closer light of the lantern he was surprised to find it was from inghter.

"I reckned you'd be right lonely down there with that Stanner crowd, particklerly after that little speech o' your'n's no! see to Maw, I'd get you up yet for a speel. Maw and I hoerd you exhort 'am! Maw allowed you was takin' a furrin tongue all slong, but I-aaksa navel—I had to hump mysel! to keep from bustin' into a vell when yet list drawed them Webster-unabridged sentances on 'em." She stopped and rocked backward and forward with a hand that, subdued by the low roof, and the lear of being overheard, was tyno means unmusical. "I'll tely ge what got me, the'! That part commencing, 'Suckamstances over which I've no control,"

"Oh, come! I didn't say that," interrupted Hale, hughing.

"Don't make it convenient for me to exercise the privilege of kickin' yer out to that extent," she continued, 'but if cannot dispense with your room, the least I can say is that i'rs addaglight better than your company—or suthin' like that! And then the way you minded your stops, and of your voice rise and lait just ez easy ez et you was a First Reader in large type. Why, the Kernel wasn't nowhere. His cussin' didn't come within a mise o' your'n. That Stanner just turned yailer."

"I'm afraid you're laughing at me," said Hale, not knowing whether to be pleased or vexed at the girl's ammenment.

"I recken I'm the only one that dare do it, then," said the girl, simpy, "The Kernel segits way you turned round after he'd done his cussin, and said yer believed you'd stay and take the responsibility of the whole thing—and did it in that kam, soit, did-anybedy-seak-tone style, was the neatest thing he'd seen yet! No! Maw ways I ain timuch on manners, but I knew a min and the proposition of the girl's dark eyes, he chauged the subject.

"Do you always come up here through the stables," he asked, glanetag round the room, when here hone had been planned with reference to sudden form you that a more planned with reference in sudden form you had non hind, they had h

was after's incomprohensible to the girl. She nodded her head, however, and continued:

"Then you haven't anythin' agin' George?"

"I don't know George," said Hale, smiling. My proceeding was against the highwayman."

"Well, he was the highwayman."

"I mean—it was the principle I objected to. A principle that I consider highly dangerous."

"Well, he is the principal, for the others only helped, I reckon," said Zeenie with a sigh, "and I reckon he is dangerous."

Hale saw it was useless to explain. The girl continued: "What made you slay here insied of going on with the hernel? There was suthin' use besides your wantin' to make that Stanner take water. Weat is it?"

A light sense of the propinquity of beauty, of her confidence, of their isolation, of the elocation of the slay of simple gallantry; a graver consideration of the same circumstances froze it upon his ips.

"I don't know" he raturned awkwardig.

to a really of simple galantry; a graver consideration of the same circumstances froze it anon his lips.

"I don't know," he returned, awkwardly,
"Well, I litted you, "she said, "You didn't cotton to the Kernel and Rawlins much more than you did to Stanner. They am't your kind."

In his embarrassment Hate blundered upon the thought he had honorably avoided.

"Suppose," he said, with a constrained auch. I had stayed to see you."

"Treckon I sin't your kind neither." she raddled promptly. There was a momentary pause when she rose and waiked to the chimney. "It's very quiet down there," she said, stooring and listening over the roughly bounded floor that formed the ceding of the room below. "I wonder what's going on."

In the belief that this was a delicate hint for his return to the party. Hale rose, but the girl cassed him harriedly, and, opening the door, east a quick clance into the stable beyond.

"Just as I recknied—the horses are gone ton. They've sked add of "she said blankly.

Hale did not reply. In his embarrassment a moment ago the idea of taking an equaly sudden beparture had flashed up in him. Soould ite take this as a justification of that impulse or how? He stood gazing at the girl, who turned and began to descend the stars simily. He followed. When they reached the lower room that found it has they had expected—descred.

"I note I duln't drive them away," said Hale, with an incasy love at the trustiled face of the girl. For I readly had an idea of going myself a moment ago."

She remained si sut gazing out of the window; then, turning with a slight shring of ner shoulders, said has feelinnity: "What's the usenow? O Maw! the Stanner crowd has vanosed the ranch, and this yer stranger kakilates to stay!"

A Reputable Business Man of Chicago Ac-

CHICAGO, Dec. 7 .- Mrs. Helen Whipple, until recently employed at Hotchkiss & Palmer's clock factory on Market street, told a strange tale to Justice Meech to-day about her experience on the Thursday night before Thankegiving. John Kentz, proprietor of a livery stable on Grand Boulevard, was the doendant in the case.

"I was walking bome at 65 in the evening." she said," and at State street and Hubbard court Mr. Kentz drove up to the sidewalk. eslied me up to the buggy, and told me that my husband was very sick, 'Get into the buggy,' he said, 'and I'll take you to him,' I did not stop to think, but got right in and he drove rapidly south. We went out as far as Fifty-third street. Here he insulted me and caught hold of me. As nobody was around I could not call for help. He then asked me for a delar for bringing me-out there, and grabbed my hand satched away from me. I told nim I only had sixty cents, but he would not believe me. He turned all my pockets inside out, but found nothing. Take off your coak, he said graffly. I said. You wouldn't lake my coak and leave me out here inside of the bugy, He as a shoe my ambrel a. He drove rapidly away, and I waked two books toward the city. Here I met a gentleman who gave me twenty-five cours to pay my car fare in me.

"Did you ever see this man before?" asked the tourt.

"Never sir, in my life. I do not know him, and never saw him until that night."

"Yes, sir, I am positive he is the person," was the emphatic answer.

The detendant - a reputable business man, and seeme of the officers think the woman has got the wrong party. He says he was riving home in his buggy of Saturday evening, when he was storped by a policeman and placed under arrest. The woman was with the poliseman when he made the arrest, and she said nearly a fair in the third that she was not mistaken.

"It was a perient surprise to me when I was arrested," said Mr. Kentz. "I never saw the woman in my life before, and can prove where I was the night of the alonged roldery."

The defendant's attorney requested a continuance to prove his client's innocease, and the case was set for Wednesday next. Mr. Kentz furnished \$1,000 bait. rapidly south. We went out as far as Fifty-third street. Here he insulted me and

Commodere Me Vicker, In 1796 there landed in New York two prothers from the north of Ireland. These brothers, Nathan and John McVickar, though born in the north of Ireland, were descended from a Scottish family belonging to the clan of that name, who were almost destroyed during the border warfare, and merged in the Clan MacDonald. An succestor went to Austria, and, joining the Austrian forces, was for valor in the field created a Viear of the Austrian Empire, and assumed the title as a surname,

NEW YORK CPLEBRITIES.

What New York was when the brothers landed is pictured in a very interesting souvenir preserved by the Commodore. This sonvents is a pen and ink sketch of the city, taken in 1735. Although two or three streets were laid out further up town, Ann street, with less than half a dozen buildings, was then the extreme



end of the city. The temperance of the citizens is indicated by the fact that only four "meed houses" and one tavern are located on this map, while nine churches and only one " play house" are placed. Even then New York afforded a fair field for commercial enterprise. The brothers prospered and grew in wealth

and public respect. They were in weater.

John McVickar was a vestryman of Trinity Church from 1801 to 1812. He was also one of the founders of the St. Patrick Society of this city, and a director of the Bank of New York in 1793. He married Miss Anne Moore, a sister of Patieness—Lady Cerieton Donian. He was director of the New York Bosontal in 1798.

Of John McVickar's sons, the edest married a daughter of Windam Constable, the second a daughter of Windam Constable, the second a daughter of Windam Constable, the second a daughter of Midge Brockholst Livingston, the third a daughter of the ce-chrated Dr. Samuel Bard and one of his daughter, married William Jay, a son of Gov, John Jay. Through the marriage with the sister of Lady Dougan the McVickars were inheritors as lords of the manner on Staten Island, of "all water courses, nonds, and miness"—this being specified in all the early deeds. The country seat was at Bloomingdale, now the sayium for the Insane, and the lown residence at 6 Vesey street.

M. W. McVickar on his retirement from active business married Miss Confet, a sister of Mr. Peter Govet. The only child sorviving today of the marriage of Mr. McVickar is the subject of this sketch.

M. Y. McVickar at an early age engaged in busand public respect. They were merchants.

rings of Mr. MeVickar is the subject of this sketch.

Mr. McVickar at an early age engaged in business in Wait streat, and with unusual success. It has been remarked that the large gains he has at times made were the result of a sagarious judgment while his large losses bave invariably been from over confidence in trusted friends. When he retired from nettive business he left a large proportion of his property in money, shares, and other securities in the hands of Morris Keichum & Son. They were diverted to the use of voung Mr. Keichum and credited to him instead of to Mr. McVickar.

Commodore McVickar has been an enthudisatic yachtisman. He has owned the Mystery, the Restless, the Haze, and the Magic. His hosoitality on his yacht was proverbal. The deficious meals were due to the aid of his own rod and gun, and to his own cooking. for the Commodore is a master of the calinary ext.

In 1865 he was elected Commodore of the fleet, and in 1866 was deputed to proceed to Engiand to act as judge with the Ear of Wilton. Commodore of the Reyal Yacht Squadron, of the ocean race between the Henricita, Vesta, and Fiertwing. The yachts started on Dec. 11. and all England hung with eager interest on the race. When the press was wired that the Henricita had anchored abrass of Cowes Castle at 5h. 40m. on Christmes Day, 1866 followed by the Freetwing at 4 A. M. on the 26th, and the Vesta later on, a thrill of enthusiasm ran through the island.

The American yachtismon were entertained at a speedid banquet at Cowes by the yachtsmen of England. The Queen sent an equerry to say that she had taken a lively interest in the race, and that she desired to see the racers. The midday of the 20th was fixed for the review. The sands of the soft shores of the lise of Wight were gitled by the sands for the review. The sands of the soft shores of the lise of wight were gitled by the sands for the review. The sands of the soft shores of the lise of conversational size, and the mean and energy of the most agreeable of conversationaists. His me Mr. McVickar at an early age engaged in bus-

Commodere responded with his usual grace and taste.

The Commodere is one of the most agreeable of conversationalists. His memory of men and events is a source of pieceure and instruction rather than an engine of colloquial oppression. His information on some subjects is singularly full and accurate. He never overloads his talk and is never obtrusive. He has a nice wardrobe of words, and he dresses his thoughts in easy and graceful apparet. He perhaps these not care sufficiently for his own popularity to conceal his contempt for ignorance and presumption, and he dissolves gentlemen of that school in cool and happy ridicale.

Commoders MeVickar married a daughter of Thaddeus Pheips, the widow of Gov. Mason of Michigan, and has three children. The midest, a daughter, is married to Lord Grantley the account to impress Andriese, E-q. and the third, a son, to Miss Jesse Lansing, only daughter of the late Coi. Arthur Lansing, U.S. A.

Only Six League Clubs for Next Menson-Official Averages-Other Gossip.

The Boston-Providence base ball deal of the past week puts in the shade all similar transactions of late years. The action was the outgrowth of an agreement between the League clubs made at their last meeting in this city. The managers of the Providence Club reported to the League that they were unable to continue longer in the organization owing to lack of patronage, but as they had reserved all of their players for another season, and had been at a large expense in holding the club together, they asked that the League decided franchise off their hands. The League decided that the only way in which they could prevent another light for the players, such as was caused by the betrout linfain door, was to give the four disputed players from the Buffaio Coch to Datroit, which would, perhaps, put that club on even terms, with New York and Chicago, and to allow the Philadelphia, St. Louis, and losson clubs to have first pick from the Providence pagers, the men who were not wented to attend the these clubs to go to Washington, provided another Western club could be secured to take the pince of Buffaio. For the purpose of carrying out this plan a special committee was appointed, with Mr. Soden as Chairman. Mr. Soden was authorized to settle the matterns he thought best.

The players of the Providence Club are along the foremost in club can be fall, and the Washington Club wanted to get the team as it stood and would have and double what the directors of the Providence Club received for the tranchise. This, houser, the Western Longue clubs would not consent to for had taken and baily to go to Boston, Carroll, there in large the west had been and baily to go to Boston, Carroll, times, in large the way and baily the others. The mayers was believed a go to be stood in the League and the same in the location of six clubs in the League and the same in the League clubs.

The mayers we be divided as follows: Radbourse and Daily to go to Boston, Carroll, times, in age, Farrel, and Radford to St. Louis, and liuseseft and Irwin to Phila le phila. Mr. Span ding is in favor of six clubs in the League as x season and the same in the League as as asson were: Course 15th Frentiers 28th Frent 28th Fermi 28t at a large expense in holding the club together, they asked that the League take the

In fleiding averages the catchers of the two

In fielding averages the catchers of the two cities ratio as follows:

Kree Mil Holmer, west Haves Mas Peoples 885; teams with the team and Beinschmer west Brinder with 15 to 15 to